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Swaying the Course: Advisers Urge Reaga Defense and Tax Plans to Shrink Big Bud

"Although some legislators complain that the president doesn't respond to their entreaties -- one aide says his standard response is to ease the tension by telling 'a 1942 movie story' -- the meetings nonetheless seem to be having an effect. Aides believe Mr. Reagan is more willing now to consider making some bold changes. While he did 'sort of glaze over' during the discussion of Rep. Gingrich's spending-freeze idea, one staffer says, that was probably more because of the detail of the discussion than because he didn't want to consider the proposal."